



# COLLEGE REPORT

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These days, I imagine, the general public wonders whether colleges and universities still hold classes. Many of the activities and events taking place on today's college campuses seem to overshadow the actual teaching function which is still faithfully being carried on.

This used to be called extracurricula. I wonder if that word is strong enough any longer to describe the happenings one sees today occurring on campuses throughout the nation.

Before the Civil War in this country, very little went on that could be called extracurricular other than occasional hell-raising by students bored with their lot. By the turn of the century, athletics had established itself as the primary form of extracurricular activity on the American college campus.

A CREW race between Harvard and Yale in 1852 started intercollegiate athletics, and in 1858, four New England colleges organized the first athletic conference. After the Civil War, baseball captured the imagination of the country and of college students, and soon thereafter football took the center of the collegiate stage. By the end of the nineteenth century intercollegiate teams in a dozen sports had been organized.

Meanwhile, however, the administrators and professors who had welcomed sports perceived that they had cast out the devils of riot and rebellion only to have the new devils of commercialism and hypocrisy replace them. Undergraduate interest in intellectual activities, they also observed, had improved not a whit.

FRATERNITIES boomed along with athletics and became no less troublesome. They had begun as literary societies, and some of them possessed libraries that shamed those owned by the colleges. Long before the advent of Dale Carnegie, the changing pattern of American life transmogrified them into clubs chiefly interested in training their members in the arts of winning friends and influencing people.

Here the educational reformers — especially those associated with state universities — also misfired. They idolized German universities, and since German students lived around town in rented rooms, they concluded that their American counterparts should too. American undergraduates responded, however, by inventing the fraternity house.

FRATERNITIES had much to do with the increasing emphasis upon athletics, and they also promoted extracurricular enterprises in general — student newspapers, magazines, and yearbooks; glee clubs, mandolin clubs, and dramatics; proms, house parties, and informal dances. By the 1920s, the extracurriculum, in the liberal arts colleges at least, had decisively triumphed over the curriculum.

That the college was an educational institution students agreed unreservedly, but they defined education quite differently from the professors of both the old school and the new. Few students had time to read Emerson, but if they had read him, they would have agreed that "a great soul will be strong to live, as well as strong to think."

ABOVE ALL else, they they wanted to live strenuously. They were willing to pay the custom fees and tariffs demanded by the faculty in the form of admission credits, course examinations, grades, and graduation requirements because these admitted them to the joys of college life; but they had little interest in what professors taught. Indeed, most of them judged faculty scholarship to be pander and the professors themselves spiritless book-readers or mildewed laboratory grubbers who had chosen the academic life because of the fore-knowledge that they could not succeed in business or in the professions.

Scorning the intellectual diet proffered them by their teachers and yet highly valuing education as they con-

ceived it, they organized and would continue to be administered their own education until the economic curriculum — the extra-curricular activities of the thirties, professors, deans, and the Second World War, and president's public lamented the threats of Russia and over what Woodrow Wilson called the neglect of collegiate athletics excepted the main tent for the side-shows, but the extracurricular portions.

# Headlights Irritating To Drivers

Almost nothing is more irritating to a driver than to have an approaching car shine its headlights into his eyes, according to Capt. P. J. Ford, commander of the South Los Angeles Area of the California Highway Patrol.

"WHAT SHOULD you do if this happens to you? First, do not put your own lights on high beam to spite the other driver. This is a childish action and the highway is no place for childish drivers. Don't let yourself be guilty of shining your headlights into someone's eyes. Besides being irritating, it is illegal and it can be dangerous," the captain said. "If you cannot see you cannot drive safely and you are a danger to all other drivers including the one shining his lights in your face."

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